

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute Figure 5 originally filed with the application for Replacement
Sheet Figure 5 is attached hereto.

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated April 10, 2006 in which the Examiner required a substitute specification, objected to the drawings, rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Attached to this Amendment is a Replacement Sheet for Figure 5 in order to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approve the correction.

As indicated above, the abstract and specification have been amended. Applicants note the substitute specification was required. However, since only 29 of the 86 paragraphs needed to be amended (i.e. only one-third of the paragraphs needed to be amended) Applicants provided the amendments to the paragraphs only. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approve the amendments to the specification and withdraw the requirement for a substitute specification.

The drawings were objected to. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that the specification has been amended in order to refer to step 110 in Figure 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the drawings.

As indicated above, claim 4 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

As indicated above, the claims have been amended for stylistic reasons. The amendments are unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims.

Claims 1-5 claim an information processing method and system and electronic money processor in which data to be processed and electronic money are received and the electronic money is validated. Through the structure and method of the claimed invention, validating the electronic money prior to print processing, as claimed in claims 1-5, the claimed invention provides a system and method in which printing is prevented when payment cannot be made while the wait time for payment and print processing can be reduced. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1-5.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Tognazzini* (U.S. Patent 6,295,482).

Tognazzini appears to disclose an electronic reader (100) communicates via its IRTR (110) with a similar unit attached to the electronic vending machine (200 shown in FIG. 2). (Column 5, lines 49-51). When the IRTR (110) of the electronic reader (100) is aimed at the IRTR of the vending machine and the user presses a button requesting information from it, a data link is established between the two units as discussed more hereinafter. Using this data link, the vending machine sends a data stream to the electronic reader. This data stream will contain either the necessary information to access the electronic version of the newspaper via computer networks, or will contain the complete text of the newspaper or of a desired article. (Column 5, lines 54-63). FIG. 7 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when collecting

payments (MSP--case 2). Digital cash, received in payment of newspaper and article purchases, and payment authorizations, received in such payment, are stored in, preferably, nonvolatile memory (710) such as EEPROM. (Column 7, lines 24-29).

FIG. 12 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user downloads an article from the machine (USP--case 1). When the user selects this option (1200), the vending machine sends a menu of articles to the user (1210). The user selects a desired article or articles and sends the selection to the machine (1220). The machine provides cost information to the user of the items selected (1230) and, if the user desires to complete the transaction, the user sends digital cash to the machine or otherwise authorizes payment (1240). When payment has been received, the machine sends a copy of the articles to the user (1250) and the process returns.

FIG. 13 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user purchases an electronic newspaper. When a user selects this option (1300), the machine sends cost information to the user (1310) and the user sends digital cash to the machine or otherwise authorizes payment (1320). The machine asks the user to select a download methodology including direct download (D) or URL access (U) (1330). If the user selects direct download, the machine sends the electronic version of the newspaper over the infrared transceiver link to the user (1340). If the user selects URL access, the machine sends the URL and a password for the particular edition purchased to the user for use in access over a network, such as the Internet (1350) and the process returns.

FIG. 14 is an exemplary protocol explaining the interaction between a user device and the vending machine when a user purchases a physical product from the vending machine. When the user

selects this option (1400), the vending machine sends cost information to the user (1410) relating to the purchase. The user either sends digital cash to the machine or authorizes payment in other ways (1420). When payment has been received, the machine dispenses the product (1430), the user removes the product (1440) and the process returns. (Column 9, line 59 through column 10, line 26).

Thus, *Tognazzini* merely discloses that the user authorizes payment (column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 1, column 10, lines 6-9, 22-23). Nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests determining whether the electronic money is valid or not as claimed in claims 1-5. Rather, *Tognazzini* merely discloses a user authorizing payment, but no validation of the payment is made.

Since nothing in *Tognazzini* shows, teaches or suggests determining whether received electronic money is valid as claimed in claims 1-5, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 6-7 depend from claim 5 and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-7 would not have been anticipated by *Tognazzini* within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

New claim 8 has been added. Applicants respectfully submit claim 8 is also in condition for allowance.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The reference taken singularly or in combination does not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

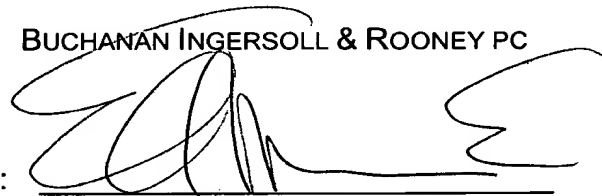
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 7, 2006

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